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The National Intelligence Survey is a systematic and continuous inter-agency program which one of the first National Security Council directives established in 1948 to provide the Government with coordinated intelligence on the basic and relatively unchanging characteristics of foreign countries world-wide. NSCID #3 laid on the Program as a consequence of World War II experience with critical gaps, often disagreement, and duplicative effort in materials produced by various government components on an un-coordinated basis. USIB recently re-examined and re-affirmed the NIS mission, with confirmation by special survey of the Unified and Specified Commands.

The published NIS on each foreign country or area is a digest which is comprehensive in scope and generally of the depth of detail appropriate for high-level policy and planning purposes (although, for example, circumstances at the time of the 1958 Lebanon landings made NIS a principal source for initial operational requirements for the Sixth Fleet and other forces in the Mediterranean). The topics covered are Military Geography, Transportation, Telecommunications, Sociological, Political, Economic, Scientific, and Armed Forces. NIS on Marine Climate and Oceanography cover the world ocean areas. Classification is Confidential or above.

The one-volume General Survey (formerly Chapter I - Brief) is the primary NIS unit published on an area. Over half of NIS coverage is now in the form of General Surveys. This may be the entire NIS coverage for one of the smaller or less complex countries. For larger countries the General Survey is selectively supplemented by other NIS units when appropriate

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to provide the more extensive coverage required by such topics as Coasts & Landing Beaches, Ports & Naval Facilities, and Health & Sanitation. With initial world coverage essentially completed, NIS emphasis is now on issuance of updated revisions as rapidly as permitted by capabilities. Emphasis on the General Surveys permits accelerated NIS coverage and updating, and present scheduling will put General Survey updating for principal countries on a 2 to 4 year cycle.

The NIS is produced on a programmed basis rather than being crisis or problem oriented. Through forehanded collection and production its mission is to be available in published form -- in Washington, outside Washington, and among the Commands and foreign posts -- when need arises. A recent example was the publication of the NIS General Survey on Panama last fall just before the new crisis developed at that time; there was considerable published NIS on Africa before the present high priority for Africa became general. The mission of the NIS, rather than being to provide highly current intelligence which is the field of others, is to provide on-hand basic information which is widely and economically used to assist in the production of more transitory, or estimative, or special-purpose intelligence.

Production of NIS utilizes the specialized know-how and production capabilities of Government components which include not only those in the Intelligence Community and the Services but such others as Agriculture, Commerce, HEW, Interior, and Labor. Some 40 individual components are involved in production of NIS topics allocated according to their specialized fields. CIA directly and through contracts is now responsible for some 60%

of the production units annually, DIA for some 40%. State provides informational support and substantive commentary on draft NIS. The published NIS is the top of a pyramid of detailed information which remains in the hands of producing components and is available for their specialized needs.

Under USIB, the programming and accomplishment of NIS coverage is coordinated by the interagency NIS Committee, a USIB committee whose members represent both the requirements and production capabilities of the agencies. The DCI and CIA are responsible for administration of the Program and publication of the NIS. The working-level focal point in the Program is CIA's Office of Basic Intelligence, where a staff of some 60 experienced professionals performs the coordinative and final review and processing of the materials from the wide range of contributing agencies.

More than 7,000 NIS units have been published to date, an increasing proportion being in maintenance revisions. Some 3,000,000 copies of these various units have been published. Other U. S. Government agencies as well as those of USIB use the NIS. In addition to the dissemination of NIS units, stocks are maintained and are heavily drawn on when crises emerge. In addition to these stocks and complete NIS held by a number of users, master copies of all printed NIS content and supporting maps and other graphic materials are held in protected storage for emergency reprinting at a remote plant which is under contingency contract.